

**EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)
MARIJUANA SUPPRESSION PROGRAM (MSP) PROJECT SUMMARIES**

Butte County Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Marijuana Suppression Program consists of a year-round comprehensive detection and deterrence program with dedicated resources from the Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Butte County District Attorney's Office. The BCSO MSP funded staff will provide enforcement, investigation, arrests, and prosecution of cultivators and traffickers of illegal narcotics with a specialty focus related to marijuana and its derivatives. The objective of the BCSO MSP program is to identify violators, investigate leads to build a successfully prosecutable outcome, remove children from dangerous environments, dismantle the drug organization, and seize as many lawfully permitted assets and illegal weapons to hamper if not decimate the drug trafficking organization (DTO). The MSP unit has been very successful with these investigations in the past and constantly looks for ways to improve our investigative abilities and case resolutions.

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

The Sheriff's Drug Enforcement Unit personnel diligently pursue information on suspects and locations of both indoor and outdoor marijuana cultivations, often in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies. Aerial surveillance of the remote areas of Humboldt County, primarily during summer months, is the most effective detection tactic for locating outdoor cultivations. Air support provided by the Coast Guard, California National Guard (CNG), the State's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to identify cultivation sites continue to be key to these efforts. Detection of indoor gardens often depends on the development of informants and "tips." Past participation with agencies like DEA, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshal, United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, California Highway Patrol, State Bureau of Investigations (BI), and the local Drug Task Force has led to the location and successful eradication of many indoor sites.

Monterey County Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

Expanded growth of indoor, and now underground, Marijuana-growing operations in Monterey County also continue to be a problem. This year COMMET detected several indoor Marijuana gardens with almost 2000 Marijuana plants eradicated. Aggressive action being taken by COMMET in eradicating outdoor Marijuana grows has led many growers to move inside. Other reasons for this can be attributed to the knowledge that is available to these individual growers, both from pro Marijuana magazines like "High Times" and the Internet. These sources deal with better ways to cultivate Marijuana, along with how to avoid detection. Growers, who at one time grew their Marijuana gardens outdoors, have now learned the benefits of growing indoors; including beating the effects of mother nature and being able to produce more crops on a year round basis.

Placer County Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

Placer County has seen an increase in outdoor large-scale marijuana cultivation. This continuing expansion has lead to the creation of the Marijuana Eradication Team (MAT) who has worked together to suppress marijuana cultivation and drug enforcement for more than twelve years. MAT

conducts investigations to target Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations and anyone involved in cultivation and sales of drugs for prosecution. MAT continues to educate drug prevention by conducting classes within the community. During all investigations the law enforcement staff does utilize DEC protocol, when needed. MAT is committed to work with other County, State, and Federal agencies on drugs and marijuana eradication in the County.

Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

With the allotted MSP grant funds, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office will fund one additional narcotic investigator and one-half District Attorney Prosecutor, which will aid in advertising for public education to increased awareness of illegal marijuana cultivation and trafficking activity by patrol officers and citizens. This will lead to earlier detection of marijuana cultivation activities to both detect and suppress cultivations early and identify and investigate trafficking, resulting in increased arrests and seizures and, in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, improved investigations and increased successful prosecutions and DEC cases.

Santa Clara Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Marijuana Eradication Team (MET) is a comprehensive marijuana detection, eradication, and investigation program dedicated to the reduction of commercial marijuana cultivation and trafficking activities. The MET works with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, and State and Federal law enforcement, to prosecute individuals who threaten public safety and the environment. To ensure the safety and well being of children, the MET also works closely with the Santa Clara County Child Protective Services (CPS) by notifying the CPS whenever a drug endangered child is found to be in the presence of illegal narcotics or is found to be residing at a location where illegal narcotics are being manufactured or sold. The MET partners with the Santa Clara County Department of Fish and Game to keep armed marijuana cultivators, who leave tons of garbage in Santa Clara County parks each year, pollute waterways with toxic chemicals, poach wildlife, and pose a serious threat to citizens, off of public lands and State and County parks.

Shasta County Sheriff's Office - \$331,547

Nor-Cal MET (Northern California Marijuana Eradication Team) is a collaborative marijuana investigative and eradication task force consisting of members from the Shasta County Sheriff's Office, Tehama County Sheriff's Office, and Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department. With cooperative assistance from State and Federal agencies, such as Bureau of Land Management and/or the U.S. Forest Service, and California Department Fish and Wildlife, Nor-Cal MET is focused on working together toward the mutual goal of operating a year-round enforcement operation to reduce the impact of illegal marijuana cultivations, sales, and possession through investigations, arrests, and prosecutions of marijuana cultivators and traffickers within the three county region.

Trinity County Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

The intended impact of this program is to minimize the availability of marijuana in Trinity County. By concentrating on marijuana cultivators and traffickers, the program expects to reduce the number of plants grown and the number of marijuana traffickers operating out of Trinity County. This concentrated attention will also result in marijuana cultivators and traffickers being arrested, incarcerated, and prosecuted as well as having their assets seized and forfeited and their crops eradicated, all of which will ultimately deter those individuals from cultivating and

trafficking marijuana in Trinity County and provide the casual marijuana grower with strong reasons to find legal sources of income.

Tulare County Sheriff's Department - \$331,546

The South Valley Marijuana Suppression Program (MSP) is a collaborative effort to battle illegal marijuana cultivation and trafficking in Fresno and Tulare counties. The collaborative is funded by a grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections. The state grant uses Federal Justice Assistance Grant funds and allows the collaborative to be aggressive in investigating and prosecuting cultivators and traffickers in the multi-billion dollar industry of illegal marijuana in these two large Central California counties. MSP also leverages other local, state, and federal resources in operations.

Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office - \$186,494

The proposed project will continue the established county-based task force called the Tuolumne Narcotics Teams (TNT). TNT is a cooperative, collaborative, multi-disciplinary task force comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, and probation components. TNT is committed to investigating, arresting, and aiding in the prosecution of drug offenders within Tuolumne County and surrounding areas, where a nexus of criminal conduct can be established. TNT works closely with a multitude of agencies to include, but not limited to DEA, California State Parole, Child Welfare Services, District Attorney, and the Sonora Police Department. TNT also shares an agreement with Federal Law Enforcement working and running unilateral investigations of narcotics offenders upon state and federal lands within Tuolumne County.